



THE WARM-UP RING

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Michelle C. Dunn

The holiday season is upon us, bringing with it winter cold, snow, and holiday cheer.

We equestrians have much to be thankful for in this season of giving. Our equine partners bring us a great deal of pleasure, both in our riding pursuits and through their mere presence in our lives. My favourite part of having a horse in my life is the relationship we have and the bond we share. There is nothing better than giving your horse a good brushing, tidying up its mane and tail, and then admiring your handiwork as your horse stands before you, gleaming with good health.

Many other equestrians have not been this fortunate in the past year. The Caribbean area faced vast devastation from several hurricanes earlier this fall, and many animals were left without care when their owners lost everything they had. Although the relief efforts of both the U.S. and Canada have helped tremendously, there is still much rebuilding to be done so that these people and their animals can be safe and at home once again.

The past two weeks have seen monstrous wild fires in southern California, driven by extremely dry conditions and high winds. Several well-known hunter/jumper trainers,

their clients, and their horses have been greatly affected. Some barns have been totally lost to fire, and at least one race track had to free their horses to run for their lives when the fires swept in. The silver-lining in these dark clouds has been the outpouring of help from the equestrian community who brought horse trailers to rescue horses in danger along with tons of feed, bedding, equipment such as buckets and lead shanks, and clothing for horse farm workers who lost everything. The generosity of our equestrian friends is truly wonderful to see in such dire circumstances.

This holiday season, let us all be thankful to be among such a great group of people, and let us give thanks for all that the horse brings to our lives.

Wishing you a happy and healthy holiday season!

Pamela Law
Chair, Jumping Committee

ROYAL HORSE SHOW PHOTO GALLERY – PART II

Toronto, Canada | All Photo Credits – © Jump Media



Amy Millar celebrates her first Canadian Show Jumping Champion title with Heros.



Ian Millar addresses the media.



François Lamontagne was named the Leading Canadian Rider following impressive results in the international show jumping division.



Course designer Guilherme Jorge of Brazil.



Vanessa Mannix concentrates on the course walk.



Olympic silver medalist Jill Henselwood coached Julia Madigan to the National Junior/Amateur Jumping Championship title.



Laura Jane Tidball (left) with Canadian Olympians Tiffany Foster and Laura Tidball Balisky.



Nicole Walker proudly displays her Uplands Under 25 National Championship hardware aboard Excellent B.



Canada's top-ranked female rider, Tiffany Foster, signs autographs for fans.



Veronica Bot walks the course for the Uplands Under 25 National Championship with coach Chris Delia.

YOUNG GUNS! PROFILING SAM WALKER

By Emily Riden

If you're looking for Sam Walker, chances are you will find him at his parents' Forest Hill Training Center based in Caledon, ON.

It was there that the 15-year-old first began riding as soon as he could sit on a horse, and it's there that Walker now spends much of his time not only riding, but also putting in the extra work behind the scenes.

Starting his international show jumping career at a young age, Walker claimed his first FEI victory this summer at the age of 14, winning the speed class in the CSI1* division in Deauville, France. In the fall, he enjoyed top three finishes in both the Dover Saddlery/United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) Hunter Seat Medal in Harrisburg, PA, and the Washington International Horse Show (WIHS) Equitation Final in Washington, D.C. Capping off a career year, Walker won the acclaimed Jump Canada Medal National Final at Toronto's iconic Royal Horse Show.

"I've never had a year that has gone as well as this one has," said Walker. "I'm really happy, and almost a little bit in awe."

A Strong Family Foundation

While Walker's 2017 show season was undoubtedly a stand-out for the young rider, it was not his first taste of success. Under the guidance of his trainer parents, Scott and Dee Walker, Sam Walker was in the saddle from as early as he can recall, learning the foundations of the sport and first stepping foot in the show ring at the age of three or four. As Sam Walker said, "Everything just kind of went from there!"

At the age of eight, Sam Walker transitioned from competing successfully in the Pony Hunter divisions to the Children's Hunters. By the time he was ten, he was competing in the Pony Jumpers aboard a mount named Flying Solo.

"There was no question whether I liked it or not," said Sam Walker, who got his first taste of success in the Short Stirrup and Walk-Trot divisions riding Poptart. "I knew I really enjoyed riding from the time I was really, really little."

Scott and Dee Walker fostered their son's love for riding, providing him with exceptional training and appropriate mounts as he climbed up the divisions.

"Training with my parents is really cool, and it's something really different from what other kids will experience," said Sam Walker, who noted that his family focuses strictly on horses and training in the barn and solely on being a family when they're at home. "They've trained kids from 'grassroots to grand prix,' and they have so many accomplishments under their belts. They're fantastic trainers."

During the winter of 2015, while continuing to train largely with his parents, Sam Walker also joined another 'family', composed of the riders and trainers at Missy Clark and John Brennan's North Run, with bases in Warren, VT, and Wellington, FL. Dee Walker herself



In addition to winning the Jump Canada Medal Final, Sam Walker and Miracle also competed in the Canadian Hunter Derby Championships at The Royal.



Starting Gate Communications

Sam Walker, pictured competing in the Children's Nations' Cup at the 2016 Winter Equestrian Festival aboard Andino Z, began contesting the jumper divisions at the age of ten.



Jump Media

Sam Walker, 15, and Miracle led the Jump Canada Medal Final victory gallop at the 2017 Royal Horse Show in Toronto, ON.



Ben Radvanyi Photography

Sam Walker has put a strong focus on the equitation divisions, topping numerous Jump Canada and CET Medal classes throughout 2017, including at the CSI1* Erin Welcome at Angelstone aboard Morrison.

had trained with Clark as a young adult and felt it was a natural progression for her son to have the opportunity also.

"They've got very similar goals and a similar way of conducting themselves to what we find we do," noted Scott Walker. "We get along great with them, and they sort of speak the same language, so I think they're great role models and coaches for Sam.

"We love the opportunity, and it works out well to split up the duties," continued Scott Walker. "It's almost as if Sam has a second set of parents, and they treat him that way, too!"

Building a Better Horseman

Once he began training with North Run, the equitation division, which had also been an important part of the Walker's program at Forest Hill Training Center, was at the forefront of Sam's focus.

"In doing the equitation with Missy, we talk a lot about how to ride smoothly, the lines, the pace, and all of the things that you need not only in the equitation ring, but also in the jumper ring," said Sam Walker of the training that has helped catapult him to his current level of success. "The reason that we do the equitation is ultimately to become a better jumper rider and a better rider in all of the rings."

Given Sam Walker's success in the hunter, jumper, and equitation rings this year, that plan is obviously working. In the jumper ring, he captured his CSI1* win in France aboard Fursa van den Dael, a 12-year-old Belgian Warmblood mare owned by Stephex Stables. In the equitation, he rode Waldo, owned by North Run, to third place finishes in both the USEF Hunter Seat Medal and the WIHS Equitation Final before winning the Jump Canada National Medal Final aboard Miracle, owned by Marion Cunningham. Sam Walker has also ridden Miracle to success in the hunter rings, including at the Royal Horse Show where he campaigned the 12-year-old Holsteiner gelding in the Canadian Hunter Derby Championships.

This winter, Sam Walker will continue competing Miracle and Waldo, as well as several young jumpers, sales horses, and catch rides, at the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) in Wellington, FL.

"He's a working kid," said Scott Walker of his son, who generally helps with the morning chores, takes his turn on night check, and assists with numerous tasks around the barn. "I think for other kids, it's a testimony to how much work it actually does take to look after horses, because it's really about being a well-rounded horseman. If you have the hard work, the dedication, the attention to detail, and the work ethic, then the success will come. Sam is a testament to that."

Sam Walker, who is currently sponsored by Equestrian Essentials, Equiline, Fabbri, GPA, and Respond Systems, says, "On any given day, I ride between five and eight horses. I ride all the horses that I can to get as much time in the tack as possible. I don't go home until the day is finished. I also love being out in the barn, which I find really relaxing. It's nice not only to ride the horses, but also to work with them and with the people around them."

For Sam Walker, the hard work and hours are not only enjoyable, they are also fundamental in helping him achieve his goals, which include moving his young horses up the ranks, competing in bigger jumping classes and, ultimately, achieving a goal that he articulates in a manner well beyond his years.

"I just want to become the best rider that I can be for the horses," said Sam Walker simply. "Being the best horseman that I can be for them would be my real long-term goal. Then we'll see where that takes me."

Sam's success in 2017, coupled with his drive and determination, should take him quite far in his chosen sport.



Tiffany Foster (center) accepted the 2017 JC Owner of the Year Award on behalf of Andy and Carlene Ziegler from Equestrian Canada Manager of Jumping, Karen Hendry-Ouellette (left), and Jumping Committee Chair, Pam Law.

ARTISAN FARMS HONOURED AS JC OWNER OF THE YEAR

For a record fifth time, Andy and Carlene Ziegler's Artisan Farms has been named the recipient of the JC Owner of the Year Award.

The Ziegler family has been an integral part of the Canadian Show Jumping Team for nearly a decade, with its Artisan Farms providing world-class horses for Canadian Olympians, Tiffany Foster and Eric Lamaze.

In 2017, Foster and Lamaze continued to excel on the world stage aboard Artisan Farms' horses. Lamaze had an exceptionally strong start to the season at the Winter Equestrian Festival (WEF) in Wellington, FL, picking up three wins in January alone.

Paired with Houston, a ten-year-old Belgian Warmblood stallion (Heartbreaker x Corofino), Lamaze won the Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round III during the third week of WEF. Riding his individual bronze medal partner from the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, Fine Lady 5, a 14-year-old Hanoverian mare (Forsyth x Drosselklang II), Lamaze also took top honours in the CSI3* Adequan Grand Prix that same week, before adding the Ruby et Violette WEF Challenge Cup Round V victory to his record during WEF V.

Lamaze and Fine Lady 5 went on to claim the €3,000 CSI5* Massimo Dutti Trophy, held as part of the Global Champions Tour in Mexico City, in April. The pair's success continued into the summer, when they defended their title in the €100,000 Turkish Airlines Prize of Europe at the prestigious CHIO Aachen in Germany in July.

In September, Lamaze led the Canadian Show Jumping Team to a fourth-place finish in the \$400,000 BMO Nations' Cup at the CSIO5* Spruce Meadows 'Masters' Tournament in Calgary, AB, riding Coco Bongo, the 12-year-old Rheinlander gelding (Caretino x Calido) that was also his team gold medal partner at the 2015 Pan American Games.

"Every horse develops on its own schedule and in its own time, and it's really important to have owners who understand the process and are patient," said Lamaze, the most successful Canadian equestrian athlete in Olympic history. "The Zieglers are wonderful that way, and really understand the sport. A lot of the time we invest years and the owners invest time and money into bringing these horses along, so it's nice when you finally get there."

Foster also saw her share of success with Artisan Farms' horses in 2017. In her eighth season paired with Victor, a 15-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Elmshorn x Grandeur), Foster led the Canadian Show Jumping Team to third place in the \$100,000 FEI Nations' Cup at CSIO4* Ocala, FL, in February. The pair also won the \$86,000 CSI5* Suncast Classic during week five of WEF with Andy and Carlene Ziegler cheering them on.

"They are the best owners in the world, and it's nice to be able to do well when they are there," said Foster. "They never put too much pressure on us, and I think it makes us try even harder for them. I was really happy that Victor and I could deliver on a day when they were both there."

Foster has also spent the past few seasons bringing Brighton up to the elite level. In 2017, she guided the 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood gelding (Contendro II x Quick Star) to his Nations' Cup debut in Langley, BC, helping the team capture second and secure its berth for the Longines FEI Nations' Cup Final in Barcelona.

"I am very proud to be able to put Brighton's name on the list of Artisan-owned horses that have competed for Canada," said Foster. "They have been so supportive of Eric and myself, and I think that's something that is really important to recognize."

Both Foster and Lamaze traveled to the Longines FEI Nations' Cup Final in September with horses owned by Artisan Farms. Foster rode her 2016 Rio Olympic teammate, Tripple X III, a 15-year-old Anglo European stallion (Namelus R x Cantango), while Lamaze rode Coco Bongo.

"We are able to do this because we have such great horses and have such great owners in Andy and Carlene Ziegler," said Foster. "They really allow us to take our time and develop these horses. That's a big deal for Canada, and I am really looking forward to the future with the young horses we have coming up."

Foster accepted the 2017 JC Owner of the Year award on behalf of Artisan Farms during a special ceremony held prior to the start of the Longines World Cup Jumping Toronto on November 8 at the Royal Horse Show in Toronto, ON.

WE'VE GOT MAIL!

Dear Pamela Law and Jump Canada,

I wanted to send a MASSIVE thank you to Pamela Law and all those at Jump Canada for their generous support of the Canadian Under 25 classes this year. As a rider, I feel incredibly fortunate to have jumped in this series. Throughout the year it provided many unique opportunities to compete with different horses at different venues working towards the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair finale. I had so much fun competing in this series and watching my peers develop. Each leg of the series the classes seemed to become more challenging and competitive. I think this a wonderful platform for Canadian riders to continue to grow!

Without sponsors like you this would not be possible. I am hugely appreciative to you for the opportunity to compete in these classes.

Many thanks from Excellent B and me for making this possible! I've attached a photo of him from this year's national Under 25 Championship.

Best regards,

Nicole Walker



MARK SAMUEL NAMED JC VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR FOR 2017

Mark Samuel of Oakville, ON, has been named the JC Volunteer of the Year for 2017 in recognition of his countless contributions and tireless efforts on behalf of hunter/jumper sport in Canada and around the world.

As a high performance jumping athlete, Samuel represented the Canadian Show Jumping Team at the 2003 Pan American Games in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and served as the travelling alternate for the 2002 World Equestrian Games in Jerez, Spain.

Samuel has applied the knowledge and insight he has gained through a lifetime in the sport to benefit Canadian equestrian organizations. At the provincial level, he co-founded the Ontario Hunter Jumper Association (OHJA) and is a past Director of Ontario Equestrian (OE). His long history of involvement with EC includes co-founding Jump Canada, becoming its first Chair, and spearheading key initiatives, including the Jump Canada Hall of Fame and JC Bursary program. Samuel remains a dedicated member of the EC Jumping Committee, generously dedicating both his equestrian and business expertise to support EC programs and initiatives for jumping athletes nationwide.

In addition, Samuel shoulders great responsibility as Chair of International Equestrian Federation (FEI) Group IV, helping to direct the development of equestrian sport for the ten countries within the Regional Group IV: Canada, the United States, Antigua, Barbados, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Virgin Islands. Furthermore, Samuel is Chair of the FEI Officials Working Group, which was formed in 2016 to provide analysis and discussion on a range of issues pertaining to officials, including educational opportunities and the withdrawal of the age limit.

Samuel's generosity and influence reach far beyond the world of high performance sport. In the fall of 2017, he spearheaded the **Caribbean Equine Relief Fund**, a joint fundraising and equine relief effort launched by EC, US Equestrian, the Pan American Equestrian Confederation, and the Cayman Islands Equestrian Federation to help horses impacted by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The joint campaign raised more than \$100,000 in its first weeks of fundraising.

In addition to his many volunteer roles, Samuel is the past President and CEO of Samuel Manu-Tech Inc. and the current Chairman of the Samuel Group of Companies – a family-owned and operated, integrated network of metal manufacturing, processing, and distribution divisions with over 4,800 employees and more than one hundred facilities. He is also the CEO of Sam-Son Farm, located in Milton, ON, and Ocala, FL. For over four decades, Sam-Son Farm has produced and trained champion Thoroughbred race horses, earning more than 70 Sovereign Awards as well as five Queen's Plate titles.

Samuel's tireless efforts have optimized the show jumping experience for both the Canadian and international equestrian communities. Samuel was presented with the 2017 JC Volunteer of the Year Award during a special ceremony held prior to the start of the Longines World Cup Jumping Toronto on November 8 at the Royal Horse Show in Toronto, ON.



Mark Samuel of Oakville, ON, was presented with the JC Volunteer of the Year Award by members of the Jumping Committee on November 8 at the Royal Horse Show in Toronto, ON. From left to right: Jennifer Ward, Mark Samuel, Pam Law (Chair), Fran McAvity, and Craig Collins.

SSG GLOVES NAMED 2017 JC SPONSOR OF THE YEAR

SSG Gloves of Aurora, ON, has been named the 2017 JC Sponsor of the Year in recognition of its invaluable contributions to Canadian show jumping athletes at all levels of the sport.

Ed James, President of SSG Gloves, has generously supported Canadian equestrian athletes by outfitting riders of various ages, skill levels, and disciplines with high-quality SSG riding gloves. This included the dressage, eventing, jumping and para-dressage athletes who represented Canada at the 2016 Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games, as well as the rising stars in dressage, eventing, and show jumping at the 2016 and 2017 Adequan/FEI North American Children, Junior and Young Rider Championships (NAJYRC).

In June 2017, James also supplied SSG riding gloves to the Children's and Junior Show Jumping Team members competing in the CSIO4* Odlum Brown BC Open at Thunderbird Show Park in Langley, BC.

In addition, SSG Gloves has been an official sponsor of three-time Canadian Olympic medalist Eric Lamaze since 2011.

Quality sporting apparel is essential to the performance of up-and-coming and veteran athletes alike, and James's generous donation of SSG products has helped ensure that Canadian show jumping riders are well-prepared to represent their country on the world stage.

"This year, SSG Gloves supported numerous teams that came out victorious," said James. "We are glad that our products may have helped, in a small way, the children, junior, young rider, and senior jumping teams. It confirms my lifelong belief that we, as Canadians, are as good as anyone, and sometimes better! We are happy to support the people and the sport, and the accomplishments they achieve."

James continued, "I am pleased to have SSG Gloves selected and recognized for the Sponsor of the Year Award. Any award is pleasant, but especially so in equestrian sport. I have owned horses for 63 years this year, and I love every day of it. Sometimes it rains and sometimes it pours, but the good always exceeds the bad."

As a long-time and steadfast supporter of the Canadian Equestrian Team, SSG Gloves is a worthy recipient of the JC Sponsor of the Year award.



Ed James of SSG Gloves is presented with the 2017 JC Sponsor of the Year Award by Pam Law, Chair of the Jumping Committee, at the Royal Horse Show in Toronto, ON.

JOHN 'JT' TAYLOR NAMED JC OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR FOR 2017

John 'JT' Taylor of Mono, ON, has been named the JC Official of the Year for 2017.

Taylor has been a licensed FEI official since 2003 and is currently a Level 3 Jumping Judge working toward his Level 4 status. Over the course of a 15-year FEI judging career that has taken him to countless events across the globe, Taylor has become known for his fair and conscientious officiating and dedicates up to 42 weeks per year to judging.

Taylor was recently named to the show jumping ground jury for the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games (WEG) in Tryon, NC. This prestigious appointment reflects his world-class reputation as a top international official.

Recent highlights of Taylor's illustrious career include officiating at such renowned events as the 2017 Longines FEI World Cup Final in Omaha, NE, the CSI Maastricht in The Netherlands, the American Gold Cup in North Salem, NY, the Split Rock Jumping Tour in Lexington, KY, the Washington International Horse Show in Washington, DC, and Canada's own Royal Horse Show in Toronto, ON.

Taylor's judging career stems from his life-long involvement with horses. He grew up riding in the former British colony of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). From there, Taylor travelled to England and earned his British Horse Society certification before making his way to Canada. He then met and ultimately married Barbara Mitchell, his partner in life as well as in equestrian pursuits.

Taylor and Mitchell operated CornerStone Farms until 2004, and also hosted FEI-rated dressage competitions through CornerStone Dressage for 25 years, including Canadian Olympic selection trials. The pair's talent and proficiency in competition organization led to them being named the dressage management team for the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto, ON.

Furthermore, Taylor has been an active volunteer within the Canadian equestrian community for over 15 years, including six years serving as the Chair of Jump Canada, plus time spent as a Director and Competitions Committee member with the Ontario Hunter Jumper Association (OHJA).

"I am so proud to be named the JC Official of the Year," said Taylor. "I have been fortunate to work in a sport that is my passion and to represent Canada as an international official in several countries. Many thanks to the Jumping Committee for the recognition."

Created in 2004, the JC Official of the Year Award recognizes the talented and knowledgeable officials who help ensure competitions are safe and fair for all participants.



John 'JT' Taylor was presented with the 2017 JC Official of the Year Award by Pam Law, Chair of the EC Jumping Committee, on November 4 at the Royal Horse Show in Toronto, ON.